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LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 17 August 1999 clarifying its position on the so-called "sunshine policy" of south Korea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) KIM Chang Guk
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement by the Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued on 17 August 1999

Today, the international concern for peace, stability and reunification of the Korean peninsula is growing with each passing day.

The consistent and sincere efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to resolve the reunification question through great national unity transcending the differences in ideology and system existing in the north and the south of Korea have been gaining great sympathy, whereas the so-called "sunshine policy" of the south Korean authorities is being rejected everywhere at home and abroad.

This notwithstanding, the present south Korean authorities, while advertising their "sunshine policy" as if it were a new policy to improve the north-south relations, are keeping themselves busy begging for support for it.

In view of dangerous consequences that such reckless acts of the south Korean authorities will have on peace and stability of the Korean peninsula and on the inter-Korean relations as well, we consider it necessary to disclose the true colour of their "sunshine policy".

Their "sunshine policy" is a variant of the "peaceful transition strategy" of the United States of America. In a nutshell, it is an intrigue to induce the north to "reform" and "opening" under the cloak of "reconciliation" and "cooperation" and thus achieve "unification by absorbing the north" into their "free democratic system".

This was clearly revealed through what they said in public concerning this policy.

It is said that the south Korean authorities picked the name "sunshine policy" from a Greek fable, according to which sunshine was able to make a pedestrian put off his or her overcoat, though wind failed to do so. This itself becomes an absurd remark, insulting and provoking to the other party.

The present ruler of south Korea asserted openly on several occasions that "sunshine" capable of melting away the other party, not "strong wind", meaning head-on confrontation, would be more effective for "undressing" the north, saying that it was not the cold war, but the "appeasement policy" of the United States that caused the collapse of the former Soviet Union and that it is the "engagement policy" that induced a certain country to "reform" and "opening".

Recently, the south Korean ruler, who is accustomed to depending on foreign forces, renamed the "sunshine policy" an "engagement policy", because the former term was disliked by the United States, his master.

The reality eloquently proves how absurd and disgraceful it is for the south Korean authorities to make much ado about "engaging" the north.

Although they are talking about "reconciliation" and "cooperation" with the north, they are making frenzied attempts to stifle the north militarily, hand in glove with outside forces behind the scene.

They continue shipping lethal weapons into south Korea to kill fellow countrymen and to launch aggression on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in "collaboration" with the United States and Japan, and are conducting all kinds of joint military exercises like their annual events.

They have gone as far as to plead with the United States for continued presence of its troops on the Korean peninsula even after reunification. This is the true colour of the present south Korean authorities, obstructing peace on the Korean peninsula.

This is also a clear indication that their remarks about "reconciliation" and "cooperation" are a sham to all intents and purposes, and people are surprised at the hazardous poison hidden in the "sunshine policy".

The south Korean authorities are paying lip service to "reconciliation" and "cooperation" with the north. But, in reality, they are building higher institutional and physical barriers to bar them.

They are maintaining the "National Security Law", which has defined the north as the enemy and have consolidated the "Agency for National Security Planning", the anti-north plot breeding centre, as the "National Intelligence Service" and made the concrete wall, a symbol of national shame, a permanent barrier blocking the inter-Korean visits.

This fact alone is more than enough to prove how hypocritical and anti-national is their "sunshine policy" to "engage" the north.

If true reconciliation and cooperation are to be realized, mutual visits should be effected between the north and the south of Korea and free discussion and activities by patriotic organizations for reunification ensured.

However, the present south Korean authorities are suppressing and indiscriminately imprisoning all personages and organizations involved in the pro-reunification patriotic movement on charges of "enemy-benefiting acts" and "enemy-benefiting organizations".

They are turning away even an elementary humanitarian issue of repatriating unconverted long-term prisoners released under the pressure of public opinion to their families in the north and openly taking such an anti-reunification step as issuing a warrant of arrest for, delegates of pro-reunification movement organizations now in Pyongyang who participated in the reunification festival.

Likewise, the "reconciliation" and "cooperation" on their lips are the culminations of the doubled-faced and deceptive acts on the part of south Korean authorities.

All these facts clearly prove that the "sunshine policy" is the most vicious anti-nation, anti-reunification and anti-north confrontational intrigue.

From the early period of national division, we have put forward just and realistic proposals on effecting full-scale opening and free-travel between the north and the south of Korea and resolving the reunification question through reconciliation and cooperation and have made all sincere efforts to achieve them.

The successive south Korean authorities, however, have rejected all those proposals and systematically held in check the nation's reunification efforts. They are resorting to anti-reunification and separatist manoeuvres more viciously than ever before, talking about the so-called "sunshine policy" and "engagement policy".

There can be not the slightest vacillation and change in the rock-firm faith and will of the Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to safeguard, consolidate and develop to the last the Korean-style socialism chosen and built by the Korean people themselves.

Accordingly, the "sunshine policy" of the south Korean authorities, aimed at degenerating and undermining our system to "absorb" it into their "free democratic system", will inevitably bring nothing but north-south confrontation and war.

Korea should be reunified by a confederate formula on the basis of three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, which the north and south agreed upon and solemnly declared at home and abroad, and according to the Ten-Point Programme for the great unity of the entire nation.

This is the most just and realistic proposal acceptable to all that can guarantee lasting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and bring about the country's reunification.

We express the expectation and belief that all the peace-loving Governments and peoples around the world, who are concerned about peace, stability and reunification on the Korean peninsula, will have a correct understanding of it and extend active support and encouragement to the Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to achieve them.